

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5436
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, GU, ET, SS
SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON GUINEA/LIBYAN MEDIATION EFFORTS

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 0596 (NOTAL), (B) ALGIERS 1327 (NOTAL),
(C) TRIPOLI 0640

1. RECENT VISIT (APRIL 17-23) OF GUINEA'S SEKOU TOURE TO
LIBYA HAS FURTHER FUELED SPECULATION ON PROSPECTS FOR GUINEAN/
LIBYAN MEDIATION EFFORTS IN THE WESTERN SAHARA, AND IN ERITREA
FOR THAT MATTER.

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2. IN HIS BROAD REVIEW OF LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY APRIL 17
(REFTEL A), COLONEL QADHAFI MENTIONS WESTERN SAHARA ONLY IN
PASSING. AGREEING THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S "HOT
SPOTS," HE WENT ON TO CALL FOR AN URGENT AFRICAN SUMMIT
TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE SAYING THAT DELAY WAS INJURIOUS
TO "ALL PARTIES" TO THE DISPUTE. WHILE HE ALSO DIS-
CUSSED THE PROBLEM OF THE AFRICAN HORN, HE AVOIDED ANY

SPECIFIC MENTION OF ERITREAN ISSUE. IN CONTRAST, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED APRIL 24 FOLLOWING SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT -- WHILE IN MANY PARTS SIMPLY A REITERATION OF QADHAFI'S APRIL 17 REMARKS -- PLACES A NEW EMPHASIS ON GUINEAN/LIBYAN INTEREST IN THE TWO ISSUES AND UNDERScores THEIR QUOTE DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN FINDING A JUST SOLUTION FOR THE CONFLICTS IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE ARABIAN SAHARA REGION AND ERITREA UNQUOTE.

3. THIS COULD BE HARBINGER OF GUINEAN/LIBYAN INTENTION TO HELP MEDIATE ONE OR BOTH DISPUTES, AND IN THIS LIGHT, IT MAY NOT SIMPLY BE COINCIDENCE THAT MAURITANIAN MINSTATE FOR NATIONAL GUIDANCE ABDALLAHI OULD BOYE, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY ACCOMPANIED OULD DADDAH HERE APRIL 13-15, STAYED ON IN TRIPOLI UNTIL APRIL 22 AND HELD A FINAL CONVERSATION WITH QADHAFI SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. PRESUMABLY HE COULD HAVE MET WITH SEKOU TOURE AS WELL AND SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

4. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE BELIEVES THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY FOR SOME JOINT MEDIATORY EFFORT (AT LEAST INSOFAR AS THE WESTERN SAHARA IS CONCERNED) IF ONLY TO GIVE SOME PLAUSIBLE RATIONALE FOR TOURE'S EXTENDED VISIT. THE FRENCH ACCEPT THE FACT THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA AND LIBYA ARE QUITE WARM AND BELIEVE THIS
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE LACK OF ATTENTION GIVEN TO BILATERAL AFFAIRS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL C) AND FOR THE GREAT INTEREST FOCUSED ON FOREIGN AND "ISLAMIC" AFFAIRS. IN AMPLIFYING THEIR OWN SPECULATIONS, THE FRENCH RAISED POSSIBILITY ONCE AGAIN THAT QADHAFI MAY SEEK TO USE TOURE AS HIS INTERLOCUTOR WITH THE EGYPTIANS IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER MEDIATORY ACTIVITIES. THEY NOTED IN THIS REGARD RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE NEWS BULLETIN LAST NIGHT WHICH STATED THAT SEKOU TOURE WOULD FLY TO CAIRO AND RABAT FOLLOWING HIS BAMAKO VISIT. WHILE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE QUESTIONS THE VERACITY OF THIS REPORT, IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE KIND OF SPECULATIONS WHICH HAVE SURROUNDED SEKOU TOURE'S RECENT LIBYAN SOJOURN.
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